



H.RES. 1095 – Recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of congressional passage of title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (the Fair Housing Act) and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1095 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Al Green (D-TX) on April 9, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1095 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1095 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes and honors the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988;
- Supports activities to recognize and celebrate the important historical milestones represented by the anniversaries of the enactment of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the enactment of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988; and
- Encourages all people and levels of government to rededicate themselves to the enforcement and the ideals of fair housing laws.

BACKGROUND

In 1966, Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. led the Chicago Freedom Movement. The purpose of the movement was to raise national consciousness about discrimination. In 1968 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Commonly known as the Kerner Commission) to study, among other topics, discrimination in urban housing. In their final report the stated that, "our nation is moving toward two societies, one black and one white--separate and unequal."

In response to the Kerner Commission, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Act into law on April 11, 1968. It was exactly one week after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 was introduced by Rep. Fish (R-NY) on February 2, 1987. It was passed by the House on June 29, 1988 by a vote of 376-23. The legislation included protection measures on the basis of familial status and disability, and made the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issue regulations to implement and interpret the Fair Housing Act. The legislation also required HUD to report annually to Congress on the nature and extent of housing discrimination.

According to HUD in 2006, approximately 27,000 housing discrimination complaints were filed, of which 18,000 complaints were resolved by fair housing centers.

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